THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : அங்கத்தினர் போடுகின்ற கேள்விக்கு நாங்கள் பதிலளிப்போம். ஆனால் அந்தக் கேள்வியை அனுமதிப்பதும், நிராகரிப்பதும் கனம் சபாநாயகருடைய வேலை. அதை நாங்கள் செய்யமுடியாது.

MR. SPEAKER : When questions are given notice of and if they are in order, they can be allowed; the Speaker has no discretion in the matter.

SRI K. VINAYAKAM : Is it not a fact that even before the separation of the Andhra State, members belonging to that area were just putting questions confusing the issue as if we were taking away materials, engines, bulldozers, etc., from Andhra areas to Madras area even though there was no truth in those allegations? Will the Hon. Minister therefore assure this House that there is no truth or basis for these questions?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : I cannot speak for hon. Members having some basis or reasons or not; I can only state the standpoint of the Government and as I said the Government have not done anything of the sort by removing machinery or stopping the progress of work and so on and so forth. I cannot take the responsibility for hon. Members getting some information from somewhere.

SRI K. VINAYAKAM : On the other hand, it is the duty of this State to safeguard our interests. Therefore, will the Government take sufficient steps to see that in those areas in Travancore-Cochin State which are going to be integrated with our State, stores and materials belonging to those areas are not removed to Travancore-Cochin State so as to deplete our stores, etc.?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : Sir, neither of the premises is conceded. The Government do see that justice is being done to the respective areas.

SRI K. P. GOPALAN : May I know from the Hon. Speaker whether as hon. Member can answer the question of another hon. Member without the permission of the Chair?

MR. SPEAKER : The questions are put to the Hon. Minister and the Hon. Minister has to reply and not another hon. Member. I think these are elementary things and any elucidation is unnecessary.

Bonus to workers in Madras Electricity System

* 3445 *Q.*—SRI N. K. PALANISAMY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether the Government have any proposal to give bonus to the workers in the Madras Electricity System for the year 1955?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : No, Sir.

SRI N. K. PALANISAMY : May I know from the Hon Minister whether previously the Madras Electric Supply Corporation was giving bonus to the workers and if so, why this Government

stopped giving bonus? May I know whether the Government are paying more wages to the workers than the Madras Electric Supply Corporation were paying?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : Sir, only private companies are giving bonuses to workers and it is not the practice of the Government, so far, to grant bonuses, because Government do not make huge profits. After all whatever revenue they make out of an undertaking, it is being spent back again on improvements and for the department and other services. Therefore, there is no question of Government-managed institutions giving bonus. Hon. Members can bring to my notice one instance when bonuses have been given by Government. Of course, hereafter we may revise the practice, but I cannot assure anything. But at present there is no provision for that. As for the emoluments to workers, the same amounts which they were getting before are being kept up.

SRI S. C. C. ANTONY PILLAI : When the electricity system was nationalized, the concerned workers were given an assurance that their service conditions would not be altered; one of those conditions was their right to bonus, if the profits were normal. Inasmuch as that assurance was given, will the Hon. Minister consider the advisability of giving them bonus on the basis of the profits, which the private employer would have normally been compelled to give by adjudication proceedings. Further, may I inform the Hon. Minister that there are public authorities like the Port Labour Authority which gives bonus to the workmen on the basis of profits earned by that authority?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : Sir, here there is no question, as I have already stated, of the Government working on a profit. Because, we have not completed our expansion programme, we are taking loans and as such it cannot be said that the meagre profits that we may be making here and there, amounts to profits. It should also be considered that whatever money we are making is sunk into the scheme itself for furtherance of extensions, improvements and the third extension to the Madras Plant and things like that, for which huge amounts are spent. Therefore, we cannot take that amount as profit for any reason. After considering everything else of this sort, if there is any profit left, then the question of giving bonus might be a reasonable claim. Further, the entire question has to be decided as a policy by the Government of India and we have to act on their decision. Further there has been mention about the workers having a share in the mangement and all that. Hon. Members can hope for some kind of a boon coming from the **Centre.**

SRI S. RAMALINGAM : சர்க்கார் நடத்துகின்ற தொழிற்சாலையில் வேலை செய்யக்கூடிய தொழிலாளர்கள் ஒரு துர்பாக்கியமான நிலைமையில் இருக்கிறார்கள். அந்தத் தொழிலாளர்களை தனிப்பட்ட முதலாளிகளுடைய ஸ்தாபனத்தில் வேலை செய்பவர்களைப் போலக் கருதினால் தனிப்பட்ட ஸ்தாபனங்களில் வேலை செய்கின்ற தொழிலாளர்களைப்போல சம்பளம், போனஸ், போன்ற சலுகைகளைப் பெறமுடியும். அல்லது சர்க்கார் ஊழியர்

ளாகக் கருதினால் சர்க்கார் ஊழியர்களுக்குக் கொடுத்திருப்பது போன்ற கல்விச் சலுகை, வைத்தியச் சலுகை முதலியவைகளைப் பெற முடியும். ஆனால் இரண்டுங்கெட்டான் நிலைமையில் இருப்பதால் அவர்களுக்கு இரண்டு விதமான சலுகைகளில் ஒன்றும் கிடைக்கவில்லை. இதை கவனித்து அவர்களை தனிப்பட்ட ஸ்தாபனங்களில் வேலை செய்கின்றவர்களாகக் கருதாவிட்டாலும், சர்க்கார் ஊழியர்களைப் போலவாவது கருதி கல்விச் சலுகை, வைத்தியச் சலுகை முதலியவற்றை அளிக்க சர்க்கார் ஏற்பாடு செய்வார்களா ?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : இதை மத்திய சர்க்கார் செய்யவேண்டும். அதைப்பின்பற்றித்தான் நாம் எதையும் செய்யமுடியும்.

SRI A. M. RATNASWAMY : Sir, is it a fact that the M.E.S. workers are treated as a separate cadre and what is the reason for their services not being regularized? Is it a fact that Mr. Somayajalu who was asked by the Government to negotiate with the M.E.S. gave an undertaking to the management that the workers would be treated in the same manner as they were treated by the Management?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : Sir, the workers taken over from the Madras Electric Supply Corporation have been assured of certain conditions of service which they were enjoying before. But then the regular services of the Madras Government are enjoying a different set of rules and regulations. There are certain advantages in that system while there are certain other advantages in the Government Operation Subordinate Services. But the implication seems to be to have the advantages wherever they can get them. The Madras Electric Supply Corporation workers say that the Government Operation Subordinate Services people are getting certain advantages and that they must get them while the others say that they were getting something extra which must be given to them. That is the difficulty. Some have to forego certain advantages which they were getting under that particular system. But they are not prepared to forego them. We are trying our best to regularize them and we are trying to make the conditions uniform. There are difficulties in the way, because they insist upon the original assurances given by the Government and say that they cannot forego this allowance or that allowance. As regards the hon. Member's mention about Sri Somayajulu, I have no information on hand and I have go to verify and then only I will be in a position to

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SRI M. PALANIYANDI : கனம் அமைச்சர் அவர்கள் பதில் சொல்லும் போது இந்த அரசாங்கம் நடத்தும் தொழிலில் லாபம் இல்லை என்று சொன்னார்கள். ஆனால் தனிப்பட்டவர்கள் நடத்தும் தொழிலில் அவர்கள் போட்ட மூலதனத்தைக் காட்டிலும் அதிக லாபம் கிடைக்கிறது. அவர்களின் பாலன்ஸ் ஷீட்டைப்பார்த்தால் செலவுகள் இன்கம்டாக்ஸ்காக அதிகமாக காட்டப்படுகின்றன. இருந்தபோதிலும் அதிக லாபம் அவர்களுக்குக் கிடைக்கிறது. அவர்களுக்கு போனசும் கொடுக்கப்படுகிறது. ஏன் அம்மாதிரியாக அரசாங்கமும் கொடுக்கக்கூடாது என்று அறிய விரும்புகிறேன் ?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : தொழிலாளர்களுக்கு போதுமான சம்பளம், லீவ் வசதி, கல்வி வசதி எல்லாம் கொடுப்பதற்கு ஆலோசனை செய்துக்கொண்டுதான் இருக்கிறார்கள்.

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நேற்றே வெட்டுப்பிரேரணையைப்பற்றி பேசும்போது இதைப்பற்றி சொல்லியிருக்கிறேன். இதில் என்றும் சர்க்கார் பிணைவாங்கும் என்று நினைக்க வேண்டியதில்லை.

SRI N. K. PALANISAMY : Sir, the Hon. Minister has put all the responsibilities on the Central Government. He stated that there was no profit. But this year the Madras Electricity Supply Corporation has earned Rs. 39 lakhs of profit, but previously during 1947 the Madras Electric Supply Corporation was giving wages, dearness allowance and House Rent allowance and each worker got Rs. 67. But now they are getting only Rs. 45 from the Government. Will the Hon. Minister consider the desirability of increasing the wages, dearness allowance and other allowances?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : Sir, so far as the Madras Electric Supply Corporation workers are concerned, there is no cut in their wages or salaries. The hon. Member is misquoting or misrepresenting a fact. That is not so. About the payment of bonus, it is a question of principle to be decided by the Centre. It does not mean that we are shirking the responsibility. Once we give, it will be taken as a precedent and it will have to be observed in every other field. The sum of Rs. 39 lakhs which is said to be the profit will be nowhere when we take into account all the Plans which we are executing for which crores of rupees have been borrowed. It won't cover even the interest on that. The hon. Member should understand that it is not as if we take away the profit. It has got to be sunk again because our works are not complete.

SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Sir, the Hon. Minister said that it is a matter of Government policy and so it is a very serious question. May I know from the Hon. Minister whether in a socialistic pattern of society the workers are entitled to get bonus in the public sector or in any of the establishments under the Government, what is their opinion and whether the Government are against giving bonus to the workers? May I also know whether this Government will recommend to the Central Government to take steps to give bonus to the workers?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : Sir, while this Government have no opinions to offer, I may straightaway say that this has got to be decided by the Centre on an All-India basis, being a policy decision. We will certainly not stand in the way if the Central Government should suggest it as the hon. Member envisages and so far as the principle enunciated by the hon. Member that in a socialistic society the conditions of the workers must be improved is concerned, certainly we will follow the Central Government who are responsible for the resolution itself.

SRI S. C. C. ANTONY PILLAI : Sir, may I invite the attention of the Hon. Minister to the Draft Second Five-Year Plan which refers to the desirability of Government themselves acting as a model employer in future and not merely pay poor wages?

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May I know whether the Government accept the recommendation in the Draft Second Five-Year Plan?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : Wholeheartedly.

SRI S. DAIVASIGAMONEY : There has been only a change of masters. The workers have been taken over by the Government on the same conditions and on the same rights and privileges which they have been enjoying while in the Madras Electric Supply Corporation. May I know the reason why the Government have now stopped the bonus which they were getting before and whether they are justified in not giving bonus at all?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : As I have stated, it is a matter of policy. Private concerns are making profits. After paying the bonus, the balance goes to the pocket of the private individual. But here, it is not sufficient even to meet our demands for extensions, etc. That is why the question of bonus does not arise at all here and it will have to be decided as a policy whether they will have to be given bonus. Already they are enjoying the privilege of higher wages having been employed in a private firm and other people will be clamouring for them. But it is our policy not to disturb that. At the time when we took over, no condition was imposed with reference to the bonus. It is a contract and we are governed by that. The question of bonus is not mentioned there at all. Why was not bonus included in the contract at that time?

SRI K. VINAYAKAM : Sir, to quote an analogy, when the Company was running it, they were paying bonus to the workers. Now the Hon. Minister takes the stand that the Government cannot afford to give bonus as the Company did. But then the Company was charging war costs and surcharge on the consumption of electricity. When the war was going on, the Company was managing this concern and they were charging what was known as war costs and surcharge. But the Government are continuing to charge them, even though no extra expenditure is incurred by the Government. In that respect the Government are following the Company. But on the question of bonus, they refuse to follow what the Company was doing. So they follow the Company wherever it is advantageous to them. It is like the Devil quoting scripture to suit its own purpose.

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : Certainly not so. I am sorry the hon. Member was not here when I was making a statement on that particular point. If he had read my statement or if he had learnt about it from any of his colleagues, I am sure he would not have put that question at all. I made it plain that 'War surcharge' has no meaning now. I said I will drop the word 'War' if there is objection to it. It is not a question of Devil quoting scripture. Perhaps the hon. Member feels so. (Laughter.)

MR. SPEAKER : Question time is over.

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Sri V. BALAKRISHNAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission may I bring to the notice of this House a deepening grievance against the Leader of the House? Since the 15th of this month, the number of questions has been decreasing day by day, so much so, it has become the subject-matter of even in an editorial of a newspaper in this State. I really fail to know the reason for the decrease in the number of questions. Because, the question hour is a most valuable non-official hour which provides an opportunity to the public to obtain a fund of information of public interests and it is also an hour which provides a battle of wits between the Government and the Members. May I know whether steps have been taken since the complaint was made casually three or four days ago to prevent this undesirable state of affairs? I hope the Hon. the Leader of the House will be in a position to enlighten us and give us some assurance that this state of affairs will not continue for long. 10 a.m.

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM : Government are taking all steps to get the information as early as possible and provide answers. I suppose the hon. Members expect us to give full, detailed and correct answers though they are likely to be long. That is why, it takes sometime and in many cases, references have to be made to districts and they have to make enquiries and send facts to the Government to prepare answers. I may assure hon. Members, Sir, that we are taking every possible step to expedite getting of the answers and I may assure them that if there is any delay, that is unavoidable.

Sri P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN : Sir, the States Reorganization Bill has already been published in the papers. The House is anxious to know when the Bill will be circulated among Members and when it will be taken up here for discussion.

Mr. SPEAKER : That will be considered by the Business Advisory Committee.

* Sri S. PANCHAKSHARAM : Sir, I would also like to bring to the notice of the Speaker that many of the questions whose replies are very brief and short—in fact most of these questions whose replies are short—are marked as " unstarred questions " and as such they do not come up for supplementaries here. Therefore, in such cases I am to request you, Sir, to see that such short questions are not really made " unstarred " as has been done during the last Session when too booklets were supplied to us in the shape of answers merely with very brief answers.

Mr. SPEAKER : It is always open to the hon. Member who wants an ' unstarred question ' to be ' starred ' to come and tell me that he would like to have such questions to be ' starred ' I think although there is a paucity of questions, we are taking nearly the same time every day, viz., one hour on all the questions.

TRUTH ALONE TRIUMPHS